

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10  
NSAE-00 SCS-06 CA-01 CG-00 HA-05 FMC-01 DOTE-00  
CTME-00 /044 R

DRAFTED BY EA/TIMBS:LLROCKE:EVC  
APPROVED BY EA/TIMBS:REFRITTS  
EB/TCA/MA:CTAYLOR

-----023445 171209Z /23

R 162158Z MAR 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EWWT, TH

SUBJECT: ENGINEERS UNION COMPLAINS ABOUT THAI CUSTOMS

1. EA/TIMBS HAS RECEIVED COMPLAINT FROM NATIONAL MARINE ENGINEERS BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION REGARDING IMPROPER CONDUCT OF THAI CUSTOMS OFFICIALS. LICENSED ENGINEERS ABOARD SEALAND SHIP, SS PONC, HAVE COMPLAINED TO THEIR UNION THAT CUSTOMS OFFICIALS BOARD SHIP IN BANGKOK AND REGULARLY "SHAKE DOWN" OFFICERS AND CREW MEMBERS FOR MONEY, CIGARETTES, RADIOS, ELECTRIC RAZORS, ETC.

2. ENGINEERS ALSO ACCUSE THAI CUSTOMS OF BREAKING INTO LOCKERS AND CONFISCATING RADIOS, CAMERAS AND CLOTHING ITEMS WHICH THAI OFFICIALS CLAIM SHOULD HAVE BEEN DECLARED. ENGINEERS HAVE ADVISED AMERICAN CONSULS IN HONG KONG AND BANGKOK OF THESE CHARGES.

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3. ENGINEERS HAVE PROPOSED TO THEIR UNION THAT DURING UPCOMING CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS THEY INCLUDE A STATEMENT "NO CARGO WILL BE WORKED UNTIL SHIP HAS CLEARED" IN AN ATTEMPT TO GET COMPANY TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENGINEERS' WELFARE AND REQUIRE IT TO NEGOTIATE DIRECTLY WITH CUSTOMS.

4. UNION FINALLY ASKS DEPARTMENT TO HAVE CUSTOMS OFFICIALS  
IN BANGKOK CEASE AND DESIST FROM THEIR BLACKMAILING  
CONDUCT.

5. EMBASSY COMMENTS REQUESTED FOR PREPARATION OF SUITABLE  
REPLY. VANCE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ENGINEERING, CUSTOMS UNIONS, CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE068083  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** LLROCKE:EVC  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780119-0175  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780358/aaaabxff.tel  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 43d4a1c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
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**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3300908  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ENGINEERS UNION COMPLAINS ABOUT THAI CUSTOMS  
**TAGS:** EWWT, TH  
**To:** BANGKOK  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/43d4a1c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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US Department of State  
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20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014